

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 ACDA-19

IO-13 DPW-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /150 W

----- 015719

O R 201200Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5927

INFO WHITE HOUSE

CIA

DIA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL UDORN

USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC

CINCPACAF

CINCPACFLT

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CDR USSAG NKP

CDR 13 AF ADVON UDORN

USDAO SAIGON

SECDEF

DIRNSA FT GG MEADE MD

COMUSMACTHAI

DODSPECREP BANGKOK

DODSPECREP NKP

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354 TFW KORAT

CHSPECACTS BANGKOK
CDR JCRC NKP
7 ACCS KORAT
432 TFW UDORN
8 TFW UBON
388 TFW KORAT
56 SOW NKP

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 6494

CINCPAC ALSO FOR PLAD; 13 AF ADVON, 432 TFW, 56 SOW, 388 TFW,
354 TFW AND 8 TFW FOR DO/DI; MACTHAI FOR J-2 AND PAO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PGOV, PFOR, PINS, PINT, LA
SUBJECT: THE LAO WEEKLY SITREP - SEPTEMBER 20

REF: VIENTIANE 6317

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE SIGNING OF THE POLITICAL-MILITARY
PROTOCOL TO THE FEBRUARY 21 VIENTIANE AGREEMENT RECEIVED
WARM AND BOTH SIDES HAVE MOVED TO PREPARE FOR
IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENT. PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSED MODALITIES
FOR SECURING SPECIAL POWERS FROM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO FACILITATE
FORMATION OF PGNU WITH ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT PHOU SANANIKONE. ONLY
FIVE CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED DURING THE WEEK. END
SUMMARY

1. MOVES TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT

A. LPF: LPF PLENIPOTENTIARY PHOUMI VONGVICHIT, WHO
DEFERRED HIS DEPARTURE FROM VIENTIANE UNTIL SEPTEMBER
20, MET SEVERAL TIMES DURING PAST FIVE DAYS WITH PRIME
MINISTER SOUVANNA TO DISCUSS MEANS TO IMPLEMENT THE
PROTOCOL. DISCUSSIONS WERE APPARENTLY AMICABLE AND
CONSTRUCTIVE, AND PHOUMI LEFT TODAY FOR SAM NEUA REPORTEDLY
TO OBTAIN THE LIST OF THE LPF'S MEMBERS FOR THE NEW
CABINET. A SOVIET AN-12 ALSO LEFT VIENTIANE ON SEPTEMBER
19 FOR HANOI, AND, ACCORDING TO RLG MINISTER OF INTERIOR
PHENG PHONGSAVAN, WILL RETURN WITH PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT
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FOR THE LPF DELEGATION TO THE JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLE-
MENT THE AGREEMENT (JCIA). BOTH LPF AND THEIR "NEUTRALIST"
ASSOCIATES HAVE ISSUED NEW CEASEFIRE ORDERS TO THEIR FORCES
IN COMPLIANCE WITH ARTICLE XI OF THE PROTOCOL.

B. ON THE RLG SIDE (1) PRIME MINISTER HAS MET WITH
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT PHOU SANANIKONE (SEPTEMBER 18)
TO DISCUSS "MEANS OF SETTING UP NEW GOVERNMENT IN CONFORMITY

WITH CONSTITUTION." PHOUI SUBSEQUENTLY MET WITH STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AND, ACCORDING TO PRESS A MAJORITY OF THE DEPUTIES PRESENT DID NOT CONSIDER IT NECESSARY TO CONFIDE FULL POWERS IN THE PRIME MINISTER TO FORM OR RESHUFFLE HIS GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE STANDING COMMITTEE IS TRYING TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF HOW TO GIVE ITS APPROVAL TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT. THE ASSEMBLY IS SCHEDULED TO ADJOURN OCTOBER 11 AND IT IS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WILL, BEFORE THAT TIME, FIND A MEANS ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES FOR OBTAINING NECESSARY ASSEMBLY APPROVAL. ON THE DAY OF THE SIGNING AND SUBSEQUENTLY, THE PRIME MINISTER HAS SAID THAT HE WILL ENDEAVOR TO FORM THE NEW PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION BEFORE OCTOBER 11. THERE HAS BEEN SOME DISCUSSION ABOUT CHANGING THE LINEUP OF RLG CABINET MINISTERS REPORTED PARA FOUR REFTEL, BUT NOTHING DEFINITE ON THIS POINT HAS EMERGED.

2. PRIME MINISTER HAS ALSO MET WITH GOVERNMENT LEADERS TO DISCUSS COMPOSITION OF RLG DELEGATION TO JCIA, AND WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT RLG HAS TENTATIVELY DECIDED THAT PHENG PHONGSAVAN WOULD BE CHAIRMAN AND MAJOR GENERAL KOU PRASITH, FAR DEPUTY CINC, WOULD BE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN. RLG HAS REPORTEDLY ALSO DECIDED ON ITS PRINCIPAL REPRESENTATIVES TO JCIA SUBSIDIARY BODIES FOR: (A) NEUTRALIZATION OF VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG; (B) REFUGEES; AND (C) MOBILE INSPECTIONS.

2. REACTION TO PROTOCOL

THE SIGNING HAS RECEIVED A UNIFORMLY POSITIVE LOCAL REACTION FROM THE MEDIA, CIVILIAN AND MILITARY LEADERS. THE ONLY SOUR NOTE WAS A CARPING OBJECTION FROM FORMER LAO LEADER
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PHOUMI NOSAVAN, EXILED IN BANGKOK SINCE 1965, WHO COMPLAINED THAT LAO WERE "FORCED INTO ACCEPTING AGREEMENT" THEY OPPOSED. FAR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF GENERAL BOUNPONE AND NINE OTHER TOP GENERALS HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE MORNING SEPTEMBER 15, IN WHICH THEY REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS THAT NVA TROOPS IN LAOS WOULD WITHDRAW FROM LAOS. BOUNPONE, NONETHELESS, ENDORSED SIGNATURE OF PROTOCOL AND DEPICTED IT AS OPENING THE WAY FOR REUNIFICATION OF LAO BROTHERS IN STRUGGLE AGAINST NORTH VIETNAMESE. LPF RADIO AND FOREIGN COMMUNIST MEDIA -- NOTABLY FROM USSR AND PRC -- STRESSED REUNIFICATION THEME IN COMMENTARY ON SIGNING OF PROTOCOL. FOREIGN COUNTRIES OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO LAOS--INCLUDING USA, GENEVA CO-CHAIRMEN, UK, USSR, JAPAN, AND NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAMS--ALL TRANSMITTED CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING. LAO LEADERS WERE

PARTICULARLY GRATIFIED THAT U.S. HANDED SOUVANNA
A SIGNED LETTER FROM CHIEF OF STATE RATHER THAN A TELE-
GRAM, THE ONLY POWER TO DO SO.

3. ICC/LAOS

PHOUMI VONGVICHIT CALLED ON BRITISH AMBASSADOR AND
REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED ACTIVATION OF ICC TO PERFORM FUNCTIONS
DESCRIBED IN LAO PROTOCOL. LOCAL CANADIAN DELEGATE,
IN KEEPING WITH HIS GOVERNMENT'S GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF
ROLE IF ICC BODIES IN INDOCHINA, SEES DIM PROSPECTS FOR
EFFECTIVE ICC IN LAOS AND NO REASON TO EXPAND ITS
CONTINGENTS. IN INTERVIEW WITH INDIAN CORRESPONDENT,
PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT "ROLE OF ICC WAS DEFINED IN
1962 GENEVA AGREEMENT AND THERE IS NO CHANGE NOW." SPEAKING
TO SAME CORRESPONDENT, ICC CHAIRMAN DHAMIJA PREDICTED THAT
ICC WOULD BE REACTIVATED WITHIN ONE MONTH. PROCESS OF
REACTIVATION WILL PROBABLY TAKE MORE TIME, HOWEVER,
AND MUCH WILL PROBABLY DEPEND ON PROGRESS MADE,
IF ANY, BY TWO SIDES IN IMPLEMENTIN
OTHER PROVISIONS
ON THE PROTOCOL IN THE WEEKS AHEAD.

4. SECURITY SITUATION

ONLY FIVE MINOR MILITARY INCIDENTS, ALL IN SOUTHERN
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MILITARY REGIONS, WERE REPORTED DURING THE PAST WEEK.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: collinp0
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS WHITEHOUSE
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730920/aaaaaonb.tel
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005